

IODOTOPE - sodium iodide, i-131 capsule, gelatin coated
Bracco Diagnostics Inc.

Therapeutic • Oral

DESCRIPTION

Iodotope preparations for therapeutic use are radiopharmaceuticals containing sodium iodide I 131 in capsules for oral administration. Capsules are available in units of 37 to 4810 megabecquerels (1 to 130 millicuries) at the time of calibration.

Sodium iodide I 131 is designated chemically as Na¹³¹I (MW 153.99).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Iodine 131 decays by beta emission and associated gamma emission with a physical half-life of 8.04 days.¹ Photons that are useful for detection and imaging are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Principal Radiation Emission Data		
Radiation	Mean % per Disintegration	Mean Energy (keV)
Beta-4 (average)	89.3	191.6
Gamma-14	81.2	364.5

¹Kocher, David C., "Radioactive Decay Data Tables", DOE/TIC-11026, (1981) p. 133.

External Radiation

The specific gamma ray constant for iodine 131 is 2.2 R/hour-millicurie at 1 cm. The first half-value thickness of lead (Pb) for iodine 131 is 0.24 cm. A range of values for the relative attenuation of the radiation emitted by this radionuclide that results from interposition of various thicknesses of Pb is shown in Table 2. For example, the use of 2.55 cm of Pb will decrease the external radiation exposure by a factor of about 1,000.

TABLE 2

Radiation Attenuation by Lead Shielding	
Shield Thickness (Pb) cm	Coefficient of Attenuation
0.24	0.5
0.89	10 ⁻¹
1.6	10 ⁻²
2.55	10 ⁻³
3.73	10 ⁻⁴

To correct for physical decay of iodine 131, the fractions that remain at selected intervals after the time of calibration are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Physical Decay Chart: Iodine 131 half-life 8.04 days					
Days	Fraction Remaining	Days	Fraction Remaining	Days	Fraction Remaining
0*	1.000	11	.388	21	.164
1	.918	12	.356	22	.151
2	.842	13	.327	23	.138
3	.773	14	.300	24	.127
4	.709	15	.275	25	.116
5	.651	16	.253	26	.107
6	.597	17	.232	27	.098
7	.548	18	.213	28	.090
8	.503	19	.195	29	.083
9	.461	20	.179	30	.076
10	.423				

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Sodium iodide I 131 is readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. Following absorption, the iodide is primarily distributed within the extracellular fluid of the body. It is trapped and rapidly converted to protein bound iodine by the thyroid; it is concentrated, but not protein bound, by the stomach and salivary glands. It is also promptly excreted by the kidneys. About 90 percent of the local irradiation is caused by beta radiation and 10 percent is caused by gamma radiation.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Therapeutic doses of Iodotope (Sodium Iodide I 131 Capsules USP) are indicated for the treatment of hyperthyroidism and selected cases of carcinoma of the thyroid. Palliative effects may be seen in patients with papillary and/or follicular carcinoma of the thyroid. Stimulation of radioiodide uptake may be achieved by the administration of thyrotropin. (Radioiodide will not be taken up by giant cell and spindle cell carcinoma of the thyroid or by amyloid solid carcinomas.)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Preexisting vomiting and diarrhea represent contraindications to the therapeutic use of radioiodide.

Iodotope therapeutic capsules (Sodium Iodide I 131 USP) may cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. Permanent damage to the fetal thyroid can occur.

Iodotope therapeutic capsules (Sodium Iodide I 131 USP) are contraindicated in women who are or may become pregnant. If this drug is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, the patient should be appraised of the potential hazard to the fetus.

Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with sodium iodide I 131.

WARNINGS

Sodium iodide I 131 is not usually used for the treatment of hyperthyroidism in patients under 30 years of age unless circumstances preclude other methods of treatment.

PRECAUTIONS

General

The uptake of radioiodide will be affected by recent intake of stable iodine in any form, or by the use of thyroid, anti-thyroid and certain other drugs. Accordingly, the patient should be questioned carefully regarding previous medication and procedures involving radiographic contrast media.

This drug should not be used after the expiration date stated on the container label. Radiopharmaceuticals should be used only by physicians who are qualified by training and experience in the safe use and handling of radionuclides, and whose experience and training have been approved by the appropriate government agency authorized to license the use of radionuclides.

As in the use of any radioactive material, care should be taken to minimize radiation exposure to the patient consistent with proper patient management and to insure minimum radiation exposure to occupational workers.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No long term animal studies have been performed to evaluate carcinogenic potential.

Pregnancy Category X

See CONTRAINDICATIONS.

Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. As a general rule nursing should not be undertaken when a patient is administered radioactive material.

Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The immediate adverse reactions following sodium iodide I 131 treatment of hyperthyroidism are usually mild. Following the larger doses used in treating thyroid carcinoma, adverse reactions may be much more severe and present special problems. Untoward effects which may be associated with the use of sodium iodide I 131 include depression of the hematopoietic system when large doses are employed, radiation sickness (some degree of nausea and vomiting), increase in clinical symptoms, bone marrow depression, severe sialoadenitis, acute leukemia, anemia, chromosomal abnormalities, acute thyroid crises, blood dyscrasia, leukopenia, or thrombocytopenia.

Tenderness and swelling of the neck, pain on swallowing, sore throat, and cough may occur around the third day after treatment and are usually amenable to analgesics.

Temporary thinning of the hair may occur two to three months after treatment. Allergic type reactions have been reported infrequently following the administration of iodine-containing radiopharmaceuticals.

OVERDOSAGE

In the treatment of hyperthyroidism, overdosage may result in hypothyroidism, the onset of which may be delayed. Appropriate replacement therapy is recommended if hypothyroidism occurs. Radiation absorbed doses to various tissues for any administered dose may be calculated by reference to Table 4 (Absorbed Radiation Doses).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Hyperthyroidism: The total amount of sodium iodide I 131 needed to achieve a clinical remission without destruction of the entire thyroid gland has been found to vary widely; the usual dose range is 148 to 370 megabecquerels (4 to 10 millicuries). Toxic nodular goiter and other special situations will require the use of larger doses.

Carcinoma of the thyroid: Dosage must be determined individually. The usual dose for ablation of normal thyroid tissue is 1850 megabecquerels (50 millicuries), with subsequent therapeutic doses usually 3700 to 5550 megabecquerels (100 to 150 millicuries). The patient dose should be measured by a suitable radioactivity calibration system immediately prior to administration.

Radiation Dosimetry

Following oral administration of sodium iodide I 131, about 40 percent of the activity has an effective half-life of 0.34 days and 60 percent has an effective half-life of 7.61 days. On this basis the estimated absorbed radiation doses to an average adult (70 kg) from an oral dose of 370 MBq (10 mCi) of sodium iodide I 131 are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Tissue	Absorbed Radiation Doses I-131	
	mGy/370 MBq	rads/10 mCi
Thyroid	350,000	35,000.0
Testes	92	9.2
Ovaries	93	9.3
Whole-body	160	16.0

Method of Calculation: A Schema for Absorbed-Dose Calculations for Biologically Distributed Radionuclides, MIRD Pamphlet No. 1. J Nucl Med Suppl 1:7, 1968

HOW SUPPLIED

Iodotope (Sodium Iodide I 131 Capsules USP) blue/buff therapeutic capsules containing 37 to 4810 megabecquerels (1 to 130 millicuries) sodium iodide I 131 at the time of calibration are available in packages of 37 to 5550 megabecquerels (1 to 150 millicuries) at the time of calibration.

Storage

Sodium Iodide I 131 Capsules should be stored as supplied at 25 °C (77 °F), excursions permitted to 15-30 °C (59-86 °F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved this prepared radiopharmaceutical for distribution to persons licensed to use byproduct material identified in §35.300 of 10 CFR Part 35, to persons who hold an equivalent license issued by an Agreement State, and, outside the United States, to persons authorized by the appropriate authority.

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